



WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wokingham Borough Council Adult Education Plan

August 2020- July 2023

Definition

Adult Education refers to all classroom-based or online learning delivered under contract to Wokingham Borough Council or directly by departments within the Council, using the Education and Skills Funding Agency's Adult Education Budget. (AEB)

Delivery models

Wokingham Adult Education Team is committed to delivering a range of courses across the borough which support the Council and its partners to achieve their key strategic objectives and meet the needs of our resident population. We deliver courses directly where we have the skills and expertise to do so and use subcontractors to build capacity, respond to learner need and deliver new areas of provision filling gaps they or the council have identified.

We only subcontract with organisations who can demonstrate high quality delivery and their performance is rigorously checked through robust contract and quality monitoring procedures.

Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to ensure that the delivery of adult education in the borough is strategic, well- co-ordinated and responsive to local need.

It recognises that a range of other adult education opportunities are available across the borough, primarily delivered by Activate Learning, The Crescent Centre, The Workers Education Association the University of the Third Age, The Wokingham Recovery College and numerous small voluntary and third sector providers. Care is taken to ensure that WBC's curriculum offer complements the curriculum offered by these providers with the aim of facilitating a pathway for learners to move from engagement activities with the adult education service to further learning with these or other organisations as appropriate.

Priorities

The priorities for the coming year will be.

Tackling Loneliness amongst priority groups a) Residents living alone particularly in the Shinfield South, Norreys, Barkham and Bulmershe and Whitegates wards b) Elderly residents c) Recent parents, particularly in new housing developments d) Residents with poor health	Encouraging community engagement	Equipping parents with the knowledge and skills they need to support their children make the best possible start to their education and live healthy lives.
	Promoting Community Resilience	
	Supporting mental health and wellbeing	Equipping residents with the employability skills and aptitudes they need to enter or re-enter employment.

Strategic Context

1. National Strategies

The Adult Education Budget is awarded on a yearly basis to local authorities and other providers by the Education and Skills Funding Agency part of the Department of Education.

Over 90% of Wokingham's AEB budget supports community learning which requires tailored programmes of learning to be provided which '*Develop the skills, confidence, motivation and resilience of adults of different ages and backgrounds in order to:*

- *Progress towards formal learning or employment and/or*
- *Improve their health and wellbeing, including mental health and/or*
- *Develop stronger communities*¹

Regional Strategies

The Thames Valley Berkshire LEP Recovery and Renewal Plan has several priorities pertinent to this plan.

The Thames Valley Berkshire Learning and Enterprise Partnership Covid Recovery and Renewal Plan 2020

- Supporting digital skills and adoption
- Enhancing skills utilisation
- Supporting those who have lost their jobs in the pandemic to access new opportunities and learn new skills.
- Ensure everyone has the necessary literacy numeracy and digital skills to access the job market.
- Enhance the soft skills such as emotional intelligence, resilience, interpersonal, communication and problem solving.

Local Strategies and Plans

Three Wokingham Borough strategic plans have been used to inform the Adult Education Plan:

¹ ESFA Funded Adult Education Budget Funding & Performance management Rules 2019-20



Adult Education Strategic Action Plan

NB Covid restrictions may lead to courses planned for face-to-face delivery reverting to online delivery over the coming year.

Strategic Aim	Actions	Measure
Tackling Loneliness amongst Priority Groups	<p>Use community setting including schools, libraries, community centres, church and parish halls, and children’s centres in target wards wherever possible to deliver courses.</p> <p>Deliver a programme of digital skills courses to support residents, in particular elderly residents to get online and participate with family, neighbours and the council.</p>	<p>Number of courses delivered in target wards.</p> <p>Number of learners form target wards</p> <p>ILPs</p> <p>Soft Outcomes</p> <p>Learner Feedback</p>
		<p>Number of targeted residents engaged.</p> <p>ILPs</p> <p>Soft Outcomes</p> <p>Learner Feedback</p>

Strategic Aim	Actions	Measure
Encouraging Community Engagement	<p>Deliver courses which promote and or support volunteering within the community.</p> <p>Deliver a programme of ESOL courses which enable learners to engage better with their local communities.</p> <p>Deliver first aid training to support residents to support their families and local communities.</p> <p>Deliver a programme of digital skills courses to support residents, in particular elderly residents to get online and participate with family, neighbours and the community</p>	<p>Number of courses delivered.</p> <p>number of residents engaged.</p> <p>ILPs</p> <p>Soft Outcomes</p> <p>Learner Feedback</p>
Promoting Community Resilience	<p>Deliver a programme of ESOL courses which enable learners to engage better with their local communities.</p> <p>Deliver a programme of digital skills courses to support residents, in particular elderly residents, to engage online and access resources safely including internet, shopping, banking, council services and health services.</p> <p>Deliver money management courses to support residents to better manage their finances</p>	<p>Number of courses delivered.</p> <p>number of residents engaged.</p> <p>ILPs</p> <p>Soft Outcomes</p> <p>Learner Feedback</p>
Supporting Mental Health & Wellbeing.	<p>Deliver a programme of mental health and wellbeing course in consultation with the Wokingham Recovery College</p> <p>Incorporate soft skills of resilience, self-confidence, self -esteem, etc into a range of courses.</p> <p>Deliver a programme of courses aimed at improving physical health for residents and their children.</p>	<p>Number of courses delivered.</p> <p>number of residents engaged.</p> <p>ILPs</p> <p>Soft Outcomes</p> <p>Learner Feedback</p>
Equip Parents with the knowledge & skills they need to support their children make	Deliver a programme of courses aimed at parents in partnership with schools and children's centres covering, supporting	Number of courses delivered.

Strategic Aim	Actions	Measure
the best possible start to their education and lead healthy lives	with maths, English, confidence, anxiety and healthy eating.	number of residents engaged. ILPs Soft Outcomes Learner Feedback
Equip residents with the employability skills and aptitudes they need to enter or re-enter employment	<p>In consultation with the Employment & Skills Hub, design and deliver a programme of vocational introductory courses.</p> <p>Deliver a programme of basic entry and engagement level courses in Microsoft Office to equip learners with skills for work.</p> <p>Deliver employability skills workshops to fill gaps in the Employment & Skills hub programme</p>	Number of courses delivered. number of residents engaged. ILPs Soft Outcomes Learner Feedback